WINCHESTER NEWS
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HELPERS AMONG US — NEWS

Helpers Among Us - WinPAC unites with light

JOYCE WESTNER | STAFF WRITER

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(From left) Kate Messier, Kate Caves, Christiana Judge, Kathryn Kurr, Beckett Yimoyines, and Betsy D'Alelio sell Unite with Light kits. WINCHESTER NEWS STAFF PHOTO/JOYCE WESTNER

On a cold and blustery day, two post-graduate Winchester High School students and others stood outside the Stop & Shop inviting folks t

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luminary kits as part of the Unite with Light event planned for Sunday, Dec. 14.

The successful program was started by Mairin Norton, a high-schooler who has since moved on to college. She was concerned that no one would take over the program, but WinPAC has stepped up.

Buy your luminary kits to be part of the Unite with Light event planned for Sunday, Dec. 14. COURTESY PHOTO/UNITE WITH LIGHT

Kathryn Kurr, one of the post-graduates, has an internship at the Town Hall, where she labels envelopes and helps with shredding documents.

Another post-grad, Becket Yimoyines, was braving the cold. He helped make an address book for the program.

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Winchester High Transition Specialist Christiana Judge, joined th
Kate Caves was there too, as were Kate Messier and Betsy D'Alelio,

members of WinPAC, the Winchester Parent Advisory Council.

The Sunday event also includes a Holiday House Scavenger Hunt, and the group plans to donate the funds from the events to the Make-a-Wish Foundation, as well as use some of it to pay WinPAC's expenses.

If you want to buy your luminary kit, check out the WinPAC website or head over to A Sweet Surprize on Thompson Street. COURTESY PHOTO

Anyone wishing to buy a Unite with Light luminary kit, can do so on WinPAC's website, or get them at A Sweet Surprize on Thompson Street.

Winchester resident Joyce Westner is one of the founders of Winchester News. She holds a degree in English and journalism from Northeastern University. If you have a suggestion for either a Meet the Artist or Helpers Among Us resident, email editor@winchesternews.org.

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HELPERS AMONG US

Helpers Among Us - Alisa Dong needs your help with Thanksgiving food drive

Standish Lane resident Alisa Dong has only lived in town for about four years, but she's already immersed in helping people. And she wants residents to help her provide Thanksgiving Day meals for local food-insecure residents. A member of the town's Family Action Network (FAN), Dong is its

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November 18, 2025

HELPERS AMONG US

Helpers Among Us — Coaches volunteer to bring on the cheer

You probably know that cheerleaders appear at sporting events to cheer on their teams, but you might not know that cheerleading is a sport in its own right. Or that Winchester Cheer coaches volunteer to help girls and boys learn and compete in cheerleading. Middlesex Street resident Erin Black is

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November 14, 2025

HELPERS AMONG US

Helpers Among Us - Patti Reilly wants your children's clothes

HELPERS AMONG US

Helpers Among Us - A Whitman takes on th Winchester's trees

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Although Patti Reilly opened her boutique, Jules, about a year and a half ago, she's already discovered the generosity of Winchester residents. That's why she and her husband, John, decided to offer a 10% discount on one item to anyone who brings in "gently used children's clothing.

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November 10, 2025

Austin Whitman has the unusual distinction of serving on a non-existent town committee. "I ran into I-Ching Scott [former Planning Board member] who introduced me to David Miller, who was on the Conservation Committee," he says. "Miller told me that the Permanent Street Tree Committee had gone dormant." Still, Whitman

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October 31, 2025

Latest

FEATURES

'Chicago: Teen Edition' dances onto the Winchester High School stage

By Talia Ho | Correspondent Fame. Fortune. And all that jazz. This spring, Winchester High School presents "Chicago: Teen Edition," a bold musical that explores celebrity culture, media manipulation, and the cost of ambition. Set in the 1920s, this iconic production is sure to leave the audience wanting more. Performances will

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS

March 4, 2026

EVENTS

Ripley Chapel in Winchester presents 'Syldason: You Are Welcome Here'

The following was submitted by the Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church: On Friday, March 13, beginning at 7:30 p.m., live in-person and live streamed from the stunning Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church, Winchester, 21 Church St., join in with Syldason, a duo concert featuring Sylvie Zakarian,

March 4, 2026

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NEWS

Rep. Michael Day helps House colleagues pass sweeping energy affordability bill

The following was submitted by the Office of Rep. Michael S. Day: Rep. Michael S. Day and his colleagues in the House of Representatives recently passed energy affordability legislation that would result in over $9 billion in savings for utility ratepayers over the next 10 years. The bill maintains critical

March 4, 2026

NEWS

Winchester gun owners face new training rules starting April 2

Public safety data How Winchester compares on firearms licenses in comparable Massachusetts communities Active licenses as of Jan. 25, 2025 — Source: Massachusetts Criminal History Systems Board License to carry firearms Firearms identification card Winchester and Marblehead are the focus communities. Peers selected based on comparable population size, demographics and suburban

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March 4, 2026

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